

VERMONT TOBACCO EVALUATION AND REVIEW BOARD
BOARD MEETING

Wednesday, September 2, 2015, 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Department of Liquor Control

Minutes

Members in attendance: Sruthi Sakamuri, Bob Uerz, Rhonda Williams, Amy Brewer, Bill Goggins; Matt Shear

Guests present: Sarah Wylie, Rebecca Ryan, Ann Gilbert

Meeting called to order: 3:10pm

Approval of August 5, 2015 Minutes

Bob made motion to approve minutes as presented, Rhonda seconded.

Voting in favor: Sruthi, Bob, Rhonda, Amy. Bill abstained.

In absence of quorum, final vote for approval postponed until October.

Public Comment

No public comment

Announcements

10 year celebration of smoke-free bars and restaurants was held September 1st and served as a meaningful way to celebrate a milestone in Vermont's tobacco-control history. Celebration was well attended including legislators, policy-makers and state employees and general public.

Dawn Fuller-Ball has resigned from the Board due to a recurring scheduling conflict.

The first of three public meetings will be held September 29, at the Killington Grand Resort. The purpose is to update the 2014-2017 tobacco control program workplan. Rhonda asked members for participation suggestions in order to ensure adequate representation and input, such as low income representatives, peer recovery networks, etc., in order to help the program extend the reach of input. Bob wants to be sure there is a process to ensure specificity of input. Suggestions include: Vermont Housing Finance Agency, Howard Center, Abenaki tribal council.

Rhonda announced that Matt Thomas, VDH tobacco control unit analyst has resigned and his last day is September 2, 2015. Position opening is now posted. Rhonda shared that she expects that the new tobacco cessation manager, Rebecca Garavan, will begin her position on September 7, 2015.

Sarah announced that her replacement, Joslyn Cassady, started on September 1, 2015.

Rhonda shared that the 2014 [Vermont Adult Tobacco Survey](#) is now published on the VDH website.

Counter Tools Audit Results Presentation

Sarah Wylie presented on the data results from the [2014 Counter Tools Store Audit](#). The school and community programs committee will discuss policy implications and will bring policy recommendations to the board.

FY16 Evaluation Discussion

The evaluation committee met on August 24th. The committee recommends that VTERB modify RTI's evaluation contract in order to conduct an evaluation during FY16 on the Counter Balance campaign. In order to leverage RTI's expertise in evaluation, the committee would like to recommend that VTERB request a project manager at RTI who works with point-of-sale activities. The committee acknowledged that while e-cigarette use is an interesting area for evaluation, Counter Balance and POS activities seem to make the most sense at this time. Rhonda would like to include RTI peer-review journal publication of this evaluation on Counter Balance as part of the modified contract.

Rhonda made motion that Counter Balance be the primary focus of evaluation for FY16 to be conducted by RTI. Sruthi seconded. All members voted in favor. In absence of quorum, final vote for approval postponed until October.

Executive Session

Matt made a motion to enter executive session, for the purpose of administrator performance evaluation, inviting Rebecca Ryan to stay. Bob seconded. The Board entered executive session at 4:18pm. The Board exited executive session at 4:55 with no motions.

Other Business/Information

Rhonda made an appeal for closure on the 2015 RTI annual report to allow us to disseminate and utilize the results from the report.

Meeting adjourned at 5:00pm.

Next meeting: Wednesday, October 7, 2015
Vermont Department of Liquor Control, Montpelier